

11th September 2020

Eolas September 2020

Fáilte

We extend a very special welcome to our Junior Infants who are settling in very well to life in Bishop O'Brien N.S. Tá fáilte romhaibh go léir. We hope they will spend a very happy eight years here with us in Bishop O'Brien National School.

A big welcome is also extended to all the new parents in our school community. We look forward to working in partnership with you, to ensure your child's years in Bishop O'Brien N.S. are happy and fulfilling. We are delighted to welcome back Vicki O'Sullivan who has returned from maternity leave.

First Communion

Our wonderful children in 3rd class are receiving their First Holy Communion tomorrow. They have waited a long time for their special day and everyone here in Bishop O'Brien National School wishes them the very best for a wonderful celebration.

Labelling of Uniforms

N.B. Please label your child's uniforms, coats etc. to prevent them from becoming lost/misplaced.

Buíochas

The school community is very grateful to a number of parents, who from time to time offer their skills, time and equipment to help maintain the school. This is done quietly and without fuss and we are most thankful for their generosity of time, resources and spirit. A big thank you to all the parents who helped with various maintenance and organisation over the summer from book rental and grass-cutting, weeding, painting, and tidy up of the school yard. Your time, help and expertise was greatly appreciated.

Book Rental Scheme

We have replaced some books in the book rental scheme this year and would ask that parents ensure that their child/children respect the rental books and return them to the school at the end of the school year in good condition.

A huge thank you to Mag Hynes who put a considerable amount of time and effort into organising, covering and labelling books for every class in the school.

Parking

We ask parents and staff to exercise extreme care when parking. Parents are asked to collect children and exit the car-park as quickly and as safely as possible to ensure appropriate social distancing.

To ensure the safety of the children, *they will line up at 3pm and parents are asked to come to the gate, at which time the children will be released into their care. If you cannot appropriately socially distance, please wait for a few moments in your car until some parents have moved away from the gate. The teachers will control the numbers coming*

through the gates. This is to ensure that children exit as safely as possible. Parents are asked not to let children unsupervised around the car-park or road once collected.

Attendance, Absence Notes and Roll book

N.B. Please note that the ***roll is called each morning by 10.30am at the latest.*** If your child is not in school before that time, they are marked absent for the day. If your child arrives late to school due to an appointment etc, they can be signed in as a late arrival which counts as a whole day absence on the official Department of Education Rolla. The roll book is an official document and cannot be changed. Furthermore a child cannot be marked present on the roll book even if a parent informs you in advance that they definitely will be in after a certain time etc. These conditions form part of the Rules and Procedures for National School which are issued by the Department of Education and must be strictly adhered to by all schools for legal reasons.

If your child is absent from school, you must at all times give a written reason for the absence. We would ask parents to **use Aladdin Connect app at all times**, when notifying the school of an absence. If your child is absent, the class teacher will initially note the reason for absence as 'unexplained'. You can then go into the app and edit the reason for the absence.

If no reason for the child's absence is given, it has to be recorded under the category 'Unexplained Absence' in the TUSLA (Child and Family Agency) Annual Attendance Report. If your child is absent for twenty school days or more, the school is requested by law to report the absences to TUSLA. Parents will be notified by the school, as a reminder, when their child has missed fifteen school days.

It is very understandable that children will from time to time miss more than twenty school days in a school year due to illness, family bereavements or other such valid reasons. In the current climate it is even more understandable that your child may miss more days than usual. In these circumstances there is no need to worry once there is a valid, written explanation. TUSLA become concerned when there are **multiple unexplained absences**.

Below is a reminder of legal requirements in light of relevant legislation.

- As per section 17 of Education Welfare Act 2000, parents have a legal duty to ensure that their child is at school on every day that the school is open, unless there is a genuine reason for him/her not to attend.
- As per section 21(9) of the Education Welfare Act 2000, only absences relating to activities organised by the school or in which the school is involved can be authorised by the principal. Therefore the school cannot legally give 'permission' for holiday absences during term time
- The school strongly discourages parents from taking students on holiday during term-time and this will be documented in the schools communication with parents each September via Eolas, the school newsletter.
- If a parent decides to take a child out of school for holidays, the principal in line with advice from Tusla, will request the parent to provide a letter to the school to say they are doing so and are aware of the implications.
- Where there are regular holiday absences, the school, as recommended by Tusla, will remind parents of the educational and potential legal impact of removing students from school for periods of time.

Arrival/ departure from school and bus safety

School begins at **9.20 am** each morning. Please ensure that your child is in school by this time. When children are consistently late is disruptive for classes, teachers and stressful for the children themselves. The yard is supervised from **9.10 am** onwards. Please be aware that if your child is dropped to the school premises before this time, we are not in a position to supervise them and they are not permitted to enter the school grounds. Children should enter the school through their allocated gate and door. These are the guidelines from the insurance company and must be strictly adhered to.

Parents should discuss and regularly remind children travelling on the bus of the following safety measures;

- Remain seated until the bus comes to a halt
- Not to interfere with others as they get on and off the bus
- Not to distract in anyway the driver of the bus
- Ensure school bags are placed out of danger
- Wait patiently their turn to get on or off the bus
- Sanitise hands on entry and exit of the bus

Contact with staff members

You will receive notification prior to the mid-term break of the annual Parent Teacher Meetings which are scheduled in the month of November. This year the meetings will be held over the phone.

If you have concerns about your child you may contact their class teacher on the following email addresses.

These email addresses are as follows:

Joanne O'Brien Kennelly (Principal, 3rd and 4th class teacher) principal@bartlemyns.ie

Paudy Walsh (Deputy Principal 5th and 6th class teacher) paudywalsh@bartlemyns.ie

Caroline Lane (Assistant Principal Special Education Teacher) carolinelane@bartlemyns.ie

Vicki O'Sullivan (Special Education Teacher) vickiosullivan@bartlemyns.ie

Orla Glavey (Junior and Senior Infants Teacher) orlaglavey@bartlemyns.ie

Emma Savage (Special Education Teacher) emmasavage@bartlemyns.ie

Michelle Noonan (1st and 2nd Class Teacher) michellenoonan@bartlemyns.ie

Catherine Power (S.E.T. Teacher) catherinepower@bartlemyns.ie

From time to time a parent may have an issue/cause of concern or complaint. It is important that parents on these occasions are aware of the correct procedures for bringing these issues to the attention of the school. For this reason, a copy of the Parental Complaints Procedure is available on the school website. To find the Complaints Procedure, go to the newsletter tab, then information for parents and scroll to the bottom of the page. This is a standardised complaints procedure used in all primary schools. We sincerely hope you have little occasion to use it!

Administration of Medication Policy

If your child has any long term conditions or allergies that require the administration of medication, e.g. asthma, we would ask you email the class teacher to arrange a phonecall to review any procedures in place. We would like to remind parents that cough sweets and lozenges are not allowed as part of this policy due to them being a choking hazard.

Homework Diary

The homework diary is a very useful communication tool between home and school. These diaries are used from 1st to 6th class. Please ensure that you sign the diary each evening.

Child Safeguarding Statement

The Child Safeguarding Statement is reviewed annually in all schools. The staff will review the policy in the month of September in consultation with parents. It is important for parents to note that the contacts in schools for child protection concerns are the Designated Liaison Person (D.L.P.) and Deputy Designated Liaison Person (D.D.L.P.). The D.L.P. in this school is Joanne O'Brien Kennelly and the D.D.L.P. is Paudy Walsh.

Healthy Lunches

As you are aware, the school operates a Healthy Eating Policy in order to assist in enabling your child to develop good, healthy eating habits from a young age. Please continue to supply your child with a lunch free of crisps, sweets, bars and fizzy drinks. Try to include servings of fruit and vegetables. Milk and water are excellent choices for drinks. Yoghurt is another very healthy choice but try to avoid Frubes, especially with younger children, as they can be very messy. Nuts are not allowed due to the high incidence and severity of allergic reactions to them.

And Finally.....

The staff look forward to working in partnership with you the parents over the coming school year. We hope it is a happy, fulfilling and productive one for each child in our care.

Joanne O'Brien Kennelly
Príomhoide